

## Public Involvement Process

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### *Background on the State Transportation Improvement Program*

Federal legislation requires that each state produce a State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP lists federally funded transportation projects for the next four years, and is updated and approved on an annual basis.

A major component of the STIP development process is public involvement. The Office of Planning oversees the STIP public involvement process for the six rural GDOT Districts and distributes the STIP to the Districts for use in their public meetings and meetings with local officials.

- **Public meetings**

Annual public meetings are scheduled to be held to provide the opportunity for public review and comment. In the year 2007, 13 public meetings were scheduled on the following dates:

July 26 - Carnesville	August 6 - Albany
July 26 - Jesup	August 6 – Milledgeville (2 Meetings)
July 30 - Valdosta	August 7 - Tifton
July 31 - Carrollton (2 Meetings)	August 7 - Cartersville
July 31 - Dublin	August 9 - Clarkesville
August 2 - Thomaston	

The Department invited large numbers of customers to these meetings. The Department mailed over 5,600 individual invitations to local officials and the Family of Partners, a group of stakeholders with interest in transportation.

Ads were placed and press releases sent to local newspapers publicly announcing STIP meetings. Legal ads were placed in all Legal Organs in the state. An informational brochure explaining the STIP process is also published and distributed at the public meetings.

Nearly 400 individuals attend the meetings and GDOT has received almost 50 written comments from the meetings. GDOT's public involvement for the development of the FY 2008-2011 STIP is being compiled, analyzed and written. The final Public Involvement document will be available on GDOT's website when complete.

- **Meetings with Local Officials (outside urban areas)**

Every year as part of the STIP development process, the GDOT District Planning and Programming Engineers (please see the map on the next page) meet with the elected officials from at least each rural county in their area to discuss proposed projects in the STIP to solicit comments and questions. During these meetings, a range of transportation issues are discussed and requests are forwarded to the appropriate DOT office for response. Local officials sign a “Certification of Cooperation with Elected Officials” documenting STIP consultation.

- **STIP on the Web**

The Department makes the Draft STIP available to citizens on the Department’s web page. The web address for the Georgia Draft STIP is:

**[www.dot.state.ga.us/DOT/plan-prog/planning/programs](http://www.dot.state.ga.us/DOT/plan-prog/planning/programs)**

Contact information is also included on this site for citizen’s comments.

- **Comments**

Comments received from the public meetings and the meetings with locals are taken into consideration in the development of the STIP and any comments received are answered or forwarded to the appropriate GDOT office for response. The comments and questions received from the public meetings and the meetings with the local officials ranged from general comments such as the need for more public transit routes to project specific questions, such as when is a particular project scheduled for construction.

Additional Comments can be sent using the contact information below:

Mailing Address: Georgia Department of Transportation

Attn: Office of Planning/STIP Project Manager

No. 2 Capitol Square S.W.

Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Email: [Stipcoordinator@dot.state.ga.us](mailto:Stipcoordinator@dot.state.ga.us)

- **Coordination in Urban Areas**

For projects in the 15 metropolitan areas of the state, public involvement is the responsibility of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (please see the map on the next page). Questions about projects in these areas should be directed to the corresponding agency listed below the map or the back of that page.